

January 7, 2003

### **Public Notice for 401 Certification**

#### **California Department of Transportation Highway 128 Anderson Creek Bridge Replacement(WDID No. 1B02184WNME) Mendocino County**

On November 18, 2002, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from the California Department of Transportation (CDOT) requesting Federal Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification for the Highway 128 Anderson Creek Bridge Replacement Project in Mendocino County. The proposed project will cause disturbance to waters of the United States associated with Anderson Creek and the Navarro River - Hydrologic Unit No.113.50.

The Anderson Creek Bridge is located in the town of Boonville at post mile 28.2 on State Route 128 (SR-128) in Mendocino County, California. The proposed project is located on the Boonville USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle within Township-13N, Range-14W, section 2. The purpose of the project is to replace the existing structure because of recurring scour problems at the piers and abutments within the creek.

The proposed project consists of replacing the non-standard width Anderson Creek Bridge with a new structure built to existing design standards. The existing Anderson Creek Bridge is a three span concrete slab and steel girder structure on spread footings with recurring scour problems at the piers and both abutments. This will be replaced with a three-lane single span bridge over Anderson Creek. The new bridge deck will be constructed one lane at a time to allow traffic through the town of Boonville. Additional work includes widening the section of State Route 128 (SR-128) between the Mountain View Road intersection and the proposed three lane Anderson Creek Bridge to accommodate a two way left turn lane. The proposed left turn lane will transition from an existing third lane approximately 200 meters west of the bridge and will conform near Mountain View Road at a point approximately 140 meters from the bridge.

It is proposed to construct a temporary stream crossing/work platform to keep the stream free from mud and silt while work is being performed within the stream channel. Stream flow will be passed through the work site in a way that prevents roiling and allows fish movement. This proposal also involves constructing a series of 18"-36" diameter metal culverts installed at grade within the stream. The stream crossing structure will be removed prior to Oct 15 and replaced next summer season (after June 15) if the in-channel work associated with the project is not completed during the first summer work window. The culverts should be long enough to provide a working surface on each side of the structure. A layer of visquine fabric will be placed over the culverts before placing a layer of gravel or finer materials to complete the work pad. All temporary fills required for the stream crossing/work platform will be removed upon completion of in-stream work activities.

Access to the stream channel will be required in order to construct a temporary stream crossing, for the installation of false-work, and to remove the existing infrastructure. Equipment and crews will require access to both the upstream and downstream sides of the bridge because the structure may not provide enough clearance to pass required equipment underneath the bridge from one side to the other. Access at either downstream location will require the removal of approximately 134 m<sup>2</sup> (0.033 acres) of woody riparian vegetation (willow, alder, and maple).

Approximately (0.008 acres) of Rock Slope Protection fill will be permanently placed below the new northern bridge abutment. A Mitigation and Monitoring Proposal has been developed to offset the impacts to the riparian habitat and streambank. Compensatory mitigation for this project will be attained through replanting riparian tree species at a 3:1 ratio to offset the impacts to the (0.033 acres) of woody riparian vegetation that is expected to be removed in order to allow for streambed access. Therefore the total area to be replanted will be 0.1 acre. In order to reduce the potential of introducing non-native plant species into the project area, only native California plant species that are appropriate for the project area shall be used, and straw or mulch applications must be sterile. The replanting effort will be monitored for a minimum of three years to insure that a success criteria of 75 percent is met. Non-compensatory mitigation measures will be implemented into the project as well. These include: 1) Vegetation removal will be kept to the minimum necessary to provide access to the stream channel and; 2) implementation of erosion control Best Management Practices (BMPs) to avoid and minimize potential impacts on water quality.

The Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) initiated an informal Section 7 consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service, who provided concurrence with a “not likely to adversely affect” determination for listed salmonid species. Applications for a Clean Water Act Section 404 Nationwide Permit (Nationwide Permit#14: Linear Transportation Crossings) from the ACOE, and a 1601 Streambed Alteration Agreement from the Department of Fish and Game have been submitted for the proposed project. The California Department of Transportation (CDOT), as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined that this project qualifies for a Negative Declaration pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The nearest receiving water is Anderson Creek in the Navarro River Hydrologic Unit No. 113.50.

The Anderson Creek Bridge replacement project is scheduled to begin February 2003 with construction through November 2003, and then to begin again in February 2004, and end in November 2004. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341). In addition, staff will consider all comments received during a 21-day comment period that begins on the first date of issuance of this letter. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Andrew Jensen at (707) 576-2683, or at [jensa@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov](mailto:jensa@rb1.swrcb.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.